

AGES AND STAGES OF CHILDHOOD

5 YEARS – 11 YEARS

Below you will find some ways children often act at certain ages. Remember all children are different, so don't be alarmed if your child doesn't do something that another child the same age is doing.

Typical behavior for any given age does not mean that all children will act that way all the time. The order in which these stages follow each other is important.



5 years old

- ✦ Loves to help and is eager to please
- ✦ Imitates, helps parents
- ✦ Language is literal...they'll talk to anyone and everyone
- ✦ More stable, relaxed, brighter and cheerful
- ✦ Can succeed and feel good about success
- ✦ Learns not to interrupt
- ✦ May take things from school, thinking it belongs to them and can't deny themselves of it

- ✦ Place school and home separately... thinks their teacher lives in school.

5 ½ to 7 years old

- ✦ Acts like a 2 ½ year old
- ✦ Brash and aggressive
- ✦ Argumentative, explosive, rude and stubborn
- ✦ Violently emotional, loves one minute, hates the next
- ✦ Often blames problems on mommy
- ✦ Behavior is at worst when with their mother
- ✦ Knows everything, boasts and brags
- ✦ Demanding, not flexible... Can dish it out but can't take it
- ✦ Clumsy and a dawdler
- ✦ Negative response to others
- ✦ Very fearful age, especially of sounds, such as sirens
- ✦ Likes praise and approval
- ✦ Loves or hates mother
- ✦ Resents correction and is easily hurt by a cross word
- ✦ Resents direction but is over conforming and loves new experiences
- ✦ Behavior and feelings begin to smooth out with more tolerance and patience

7 years old

- ✦ Parents need to be reasonably sympathetic
- ✦ Use language to complain
- ✦ Visual fears, the dark, shadows
- ✦ Very "feeling" and "empathetic"
- ✦ Always touching and exploring
- ✦ More withdrawn, moody, "neurotic"
- ✦ Demands too much of self, and feels others are against them
- ✦ Feels teachers are unfair
- ✦ Feels kids "pick" on them

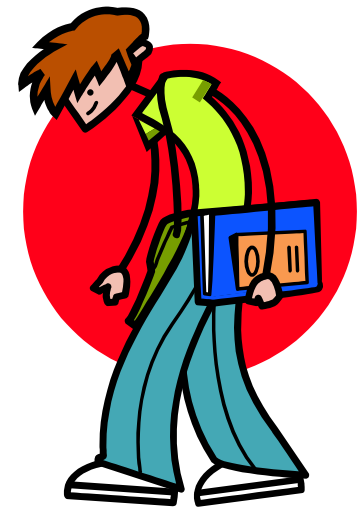
8 years old

- ✦ Talks "with" rather than "to" adults
- ✦ Exuberant, ready for anything
- ✦ Loves a new and exciting challenge
- ✦ Interest in relationships

- ✦ Overestimates abilities, followed by feeling of failure, tears and self criticism
- ✦ Constantly trying new friends, new difficult things, and new ideas
- ✦ Friends are prime reason for interest in school
- ✦ Must know "how", "what", and "why"

9 years old

- ✦ May see shoplifting as a temptation
- ✦ Resists bossing from parents
- ✦ More withdrawn, self-contained, self sufficient
- ✦ Interest in parents for what they can do for them – trips, money, etc
- ✦ The age of perfecting skills and of real, solid accomplishment
- ✦ Worries a lot and is anxious
- ✦ Physical complaints often occurs in relation to a disliked task (example: has a stomachache as soon as it is time to empty the garbage)
- ✦ Rebels at authority – either passively or aggressively



10 years old

- ✦ One of the best stages
- ✦ Straightforward and flexible
- ✦ Obeys easily, pleased with family
- ✦ Easy going and matter – of – fact
- ✦ Very specific; doesn't generalize
- ✦ Shrugs off responsibility; can usually toss off criticism and bad grades.
- ✦ Much interest in own future parenthood and how he/she will treat his/her children
- ✦ Satisfied with world in general
- ✦ Plateau between childhood and adolescence



11 years old

- ✦ Growth spurt
- ✦ Searching for self – definition
- ✦ Consequent carelessness
- ✦ Increased activity level trouble keeping still
- ✦ Is eager by the awareness of impending new status as a teenager
- ✦ Growing up brings a lot of feelings of hope anxiety, and fears
- ✦ Increased sensitivity, emotionalism, and very argumentative
- ✦ You never know what mood will strike and when

- ✦ Often forgets manners, is rude
- ✦ Thinks they're often being yelled at, disciplined, or that you're picking on them
- ✦ Need to be noticed, can't tolerate indifference
- ✦ Child rearing practices are challenged; attacks parent's motives and feelings

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